



Ref. 79/2224

Mr Tim Whetstone MP
Member for Chaffey
13 Kay Avenue
BERRI SA 5343
Email: chaffey@parliament.sa.gov.au

ABN 76 149 388 126

Level 4
81-95 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5001

GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel +61 8 8204 2051
Fax +61 8 204 1911

www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Whetstone

I refer to your application (receipt number 18086192) pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the FOI Act) on 24 July 2023 requesting access to:

A copy of all minutes, reports, and meeting agendas relating to meetings attended by the Green Industries SA Board from 1 December 2022 to 30 December 2022

Due to a determination not being provided within the statutory timeframe, you sought an internal review on 24 August 2023.

A total of five documents were identified within the scope of your application. These are listed in the enclosed schedule. The information contained in the documents has been considered under the provisions of the FOI Act and as Principal Officer I have determined to apply exemption clause 1 under Schedule 1 – Cabinet documents to four documents, as they contain information concerning a deliberation of Cabinet.

My determination is to grant full access to one document, partial access to three documents and refuse access to one document, under the above exemption clause. Where access has been granted, copies of the documents are enclosed with this determination.

In accordance with the FOI Act and *Freedom of Information (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2018* in relation to applications from Members of Parliament, no amount is payable for the costs associated with this determination.

Pursuant to section 39 the FOI Act, if you are dissatisfied with this determination, you have the right to apply to Ombudsman SA for an external review. You have 30 days from the date on which you receive this letter to apply for an external review. If you have any questions about an application to the Ombudsman, please visit their website (www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au/freedom-of-information) or contact their office on (08) 8226 8699.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact Josh Wheeler, Associate Director Governance and Business, on telephone (08) 8204 2586 or email josh.wheeler@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Ian Overton
Chief Executive / Principal Officer
GREEN INDUSTRIES SA

7 September 2023

Documents Schedule

| No. | Document | Determination | Exemption clause | Reason |
|-----|---|----------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | GISA Board Agenda Paper: Disaster Waste Management – River Murray Flooding | Partial access | 1—Cabinet documents – (1)(e) | Information concerning a deliberation of Cabinet redacted |
| 2 | Attachment to GISA Board Paper: Estimated clean-up costings | Access refused | 1—Cabinet documents – (1)(e) | Information concerns a deliberation of Cabinet |
| 3 | Attachment to GISA Board Paper: Map of potentially impacted properties | Full access | Nil | N/A |
| 4 | GISA Board Meeting Minutes: Disaster Waste Management – River Murray Flooding | Partial access | 1—Cabinet documents – (1)(e) | Information concerning a deliberation of Cabinet redacted |
| 5 | Email from Acting Chief Executive, GISA to GISA Board | Partial access | 1—Cabinet documents – (1)(e) | Information concerning a deliberation of Cabinet redacted |

AGENDA PAPER FOR: NOTING / INFORMATION

TITLE: DISASTER WASTE MANAGEMENT – RIVER MURRAY FLOODING

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board resolves to:

- i) *Note the information provided in this paper regarding GISA's role related to disaster waste management resulting from River Murray flooding.*

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

No

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Plan: Disaster Waste Management

Risk Management: Disaster Waste Management (6), Governance (8), Disruptive Events (9)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / BUSINESS PLAN:

2022-23 Green Industries SA Business Plan program / project:

Priority 4: Maintaining SA's leadership in waste diversion – Disaster Waste Management

Budget impact: to be determined

The *Green Industries SA Act 2004* (GISA Act) allows the Green Industry Fund to be applied by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water towards the payment of costs of managing waste or debris, or harm to the environment, following an identified major incident, a major emergency or a disaster, declared under the *Emergency Management Act 2004*.

The balance of the Green Industry Fund is projected to be approximately \$73 million at 30 June 2023.

GISA has undertaken conservative estimated costings for a River Murray flood clean-up program [REDACTED]. These have been submitted to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) for inclusion and consideration in a broader state government flood response and recovery package. GISA understands that the response and recovery package is being considered through a mid-year budget process (timing unknown). A summary of the estimated costings is provided at **attachment 1** for information.

Clause 1(1)(e) -
Cabinet
documents

Under the Australian Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), the state government can claim reimbursement for a portion of the clean-up costs from the Australian Government. Clean-up activities fall within several DRFA categories and the thresholds for reimbursement are generally 50%. Reimbursed funds for clean-up activity would be returned to the Green Industry Fund.

The Minister has approved a waiver of the solid waste levy for waste generated as a result of the River Murray flood. Waiving the solid waste levy for flood-affected waste will not impact current budgeted revenue from the solid waste levy as the majority of the waste would not have been produced if it were not as a result of the flood.

The Minister could provide a direction to GISA in accordance with the GISA Act for GISA to administer the clean-up program. This activity would not fall within existing delegations from the Board and the 2022-23 Business Plan, and require the Board to consider and endorse a separate delegation instrument in January 2023.

BACKGROUND

As the Board is aware, GISA has been monitoring the scale of the River Murray flooding in relation to its role in the management and clean-up of waste and debris. The flooding was declared a major emergency on 21 November 2022.

The scale of the flooding and potential number of properties impacted will generate significant volumes of waste and debris in various regions across South Australia. On the basis that levy bank integrity is not compromised, a predicted peak flow rate of 200GL per day in late December 2022 has been modelled to impact up to 3,955 properties.

Flow rate projections continue to be updated. On 8 December, the government advised that peak flows in late December are likely to be between 190GL and 220GL per day.

GISA has a lead role in disaster waste management under the [Disaster Waste Management Capability Plan](#) (DWM Plan) and [Disaster Waste Management Guidelines](#) (DWM Guidelines) form part of the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP).

The DWM Plan supports preparedness, response and recovery activities associated with managing waste generated by a disaster, and establishes emergency management arrangements, roles and responsibilities. The DWM Guidelines provide practical guidance on steps and activities in managing waste resulting from a disaster. Response and recovery activities under the DWM Plan are activated by the relevant Control Agency (in this instance, the SES) or the State Recovery Coordinator appointed by the state government (in this instance, Damien Walker, CE DPC).

GISA is functional lead for disaster waste management and when activated is responsible for overseeing implementation of the DWM Plan. The DWM Plan outlines other participating state government agencies that will assist with the preparedness, response and recovery phases associated with disaster waste management, as well as their roles and responsibilities.

The DWM Plan outlines that the state government will provide operational support to affected communities to assist with managing disaster waste when:

- the affected community/communities do not have the capacity to deal with the waste volumes and associated issues; and
- the nature of the waste volumes or associated issues means there are high consequences to human health, economic assets, the environment and/or community recovery if it is not appropriately managed.

The state government is also able to decide to provide operational support if either of these conditions do not exist.

The scale of the River Murray flooding is such that it will meet both operational support requirements of the DWM Plan and state government support will be required. GISA has sought to be activated under the DWM Plan to plan and prepare for the clean-up that will be required.

Under the DWM Plan, GISA reports to the Control Agency during the response phase and to DPC during the recovery phase. Participating agencies report to GISA on their progress with completion of assigned activities.

The Community Recovery Coordinator for the River Murray flood, Alex Zimmermann, has communicated to GISA that planning and preparedness activities are required for the management and clean-up of waste and debris resulting from the flood.

As Board members are aware, GISA coordinated the operational management and clean-up of disaster waste following the 2019-20 bushfires in the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsula and the South East. This program resulted in the clean-up of 50,000 tonnes of waste and debris from 550 properties at a total cost of \$21.63 million. \$7.6 million was reimbursed from the Australian Government for the clean-up program under the DRFA.

The scope of the bushfire waste and debris clean-up program included residential homes, outbuildings, businesses and vegetation. It included both insured and uninsured properties.

DISCUSSION

GISA considers that a clean-up program of consistent scope to the bushfires is required to support response and recovery from River Murray flooding. GISA has sought clarification from the state government on the scope of the clean-up program.

The total number of properties that will require clean-up assistance is dependent on peak flows and the extent and scale of inundation. Based on flows of 200GL per day in late December, this could include the clean-up of waste and debris, at various scales, from 3,955 properties:

- 1094 residential properties
- 1360 shacks
- 816 businesses (commercial, agricultural, horticultural, industrial)
- 685 other sites (moorings, reserves and other buildings)
- Other vegetation and debris, including hazardous materials, displaced by the flood

A map of potentially impacted properties, including categorisation of properties, is provided for information at **attachment 2**.

In view of the number and scale of potentially affected properties, the clean-up program will need to commence as soon as waters recede and the areas are accessible to personnel and equipment. This is likely to start in January 2023, with the busiest clean-up activity expected to be in February and March 2023.

GISA has been undertaking preparedness activities for a clean-up program, including:

- engaging with local government to understand their capacity to manage and dispose of flood-affected material, and to offer assistance with clean-up activities in advance of peak flows;
- engaging with other flood-impacted jurisdictions for advice on clean-up programs;
- working with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to arrange appropriate storage, sorting and disposal sites;
- progressing procurement activity to establish a panel of contractors to be ready to be engaged for clean-up works as soon as impacted areas are accessible;
- engaging subject matter experts to provide advice on waste assessments and clean-up activities;
- estimating waste volumes and clean-up costs per property type;
- preparing fact sheets and other communication materials;
- liaising with the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) on the potential for a streamlined database for the capture of information for affected properties and clean-up needs.

There are public health and safety risks associated with leaving flood affected materials in situ. Formal activation of GISA under the SEMP and agreement on the scope of the clean-up program will allow planning and preparedness activities to be undertaken for the clean-up works to commence as soon as affected areas are accessible. It will also facilitate more direct information sharing and dialogue between GISA, the Control Agency and lead response and recovery agencies.

The DWM Guidelines provide detailed technical and operational advice on the activities required to be undertaken during the clean-up program. Key steps include:

- Initial assessment to identify key and acute issues
- Identify immediate support needs (e.g. minimise acute risks to public health and the environment, such as stabilising damaged asbestos)

- Detailed waste assessments to understand volumes and issues
- Identify requirements for the management and clean-up of waste and debris
- Develop, plan and implement a clean-up program
- Review and evaluation

Where possible, waste materials will be diverted to recycling and recovery operations. However, a significant amount of flood-affected waste and debris will require disposal to landfill. Hazardous materials such as asbestos and chemicals will require immediate response and management.

GISA will lead the coordination and management of the clean-up program through a Program Director, who is supported by Program Manager and Program Officer, as well as dedicated roles for management and delivery of functions related to procurement and staffing, data, regional and on-site operations, communications and stakeholder engagement. GISA will oversee the engagement of contractors and other organisations engaged to deliver operational support.

Some existing GISA resources will fulfil these functions, however, the scale of the clean-up program requires additional resourcing for GISA to adequately manage its implementation, undertake an evaluation of the program and minimise impacts on GISA's other business.

Expressions of interest have been sought across Climate, Environment and Water Portfolio agencies for two Program Managers (ASO8), two Program Officers (ASO5) and a Stakeholder Liaison Officer (ASO5). The cost of these positions has been factored into the estimated costings. GISA has engaged two waste management consultants (Marina Wagner and Geoffrey Webster) to provide preliminary disaster waste management advice.

There will be strong public interest in the clean-up of flood-affected material and there is a risk of criticism on the speed of the clean-up activity.

GISA will lead communication activities associated with the clean-up program, including the development of fact sheets and website updates linking to the River Murray Flood sa.gov.au website. GISA is preparing a page on its website to provide regular updates on progress and will require its contractors to keep property owners informed on scheduled clean-up works.

Procurement activity for the clean-up program is being undertaken in accordance with DEW's Emergency Management Procurement Strategy and is targeting South Australian suppliers. A panel of suppliers is being established for the clean-up works. The contractors will not be engaged for the works until the scope of the clean-up program is determined.

The Board will be kept informed of the clean-up program at key milestones, including out of session as necessary. A comprehensive update will be provided at the Board's 2 February 2023 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

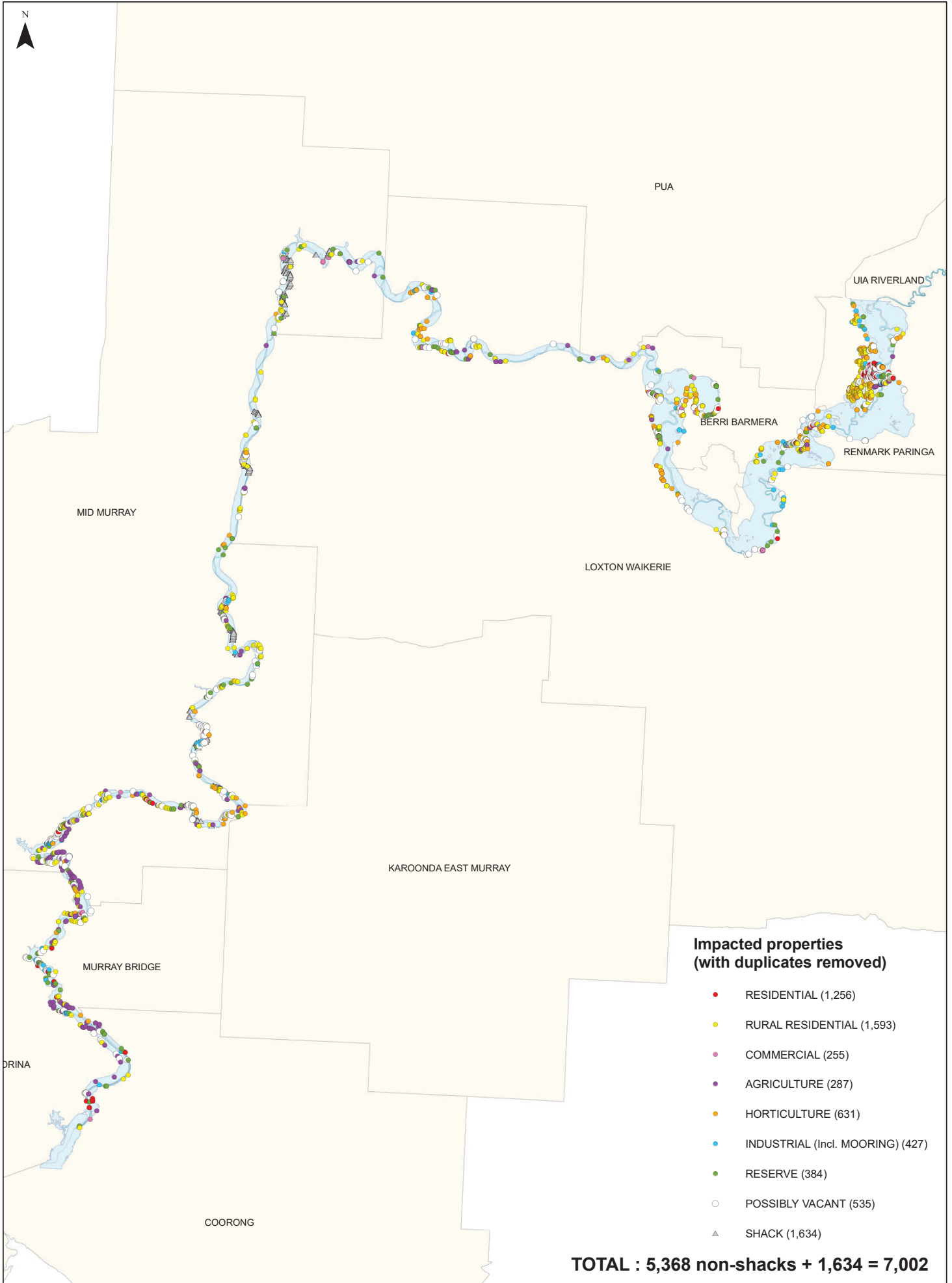
1. Summary of estimated costings
2. Map of potentially impacted properties

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: MICHAELA HEINSON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Sign off by CE required

SIGN-OFF DATE: 9 December 2022

250GL - impacted properties (incl. shacks) - 12/12/2022



THE BOARD OF GREEN INDUSTRIES SA
OOS Meeting – Disaster Waste Management Response - River Murray Flood
2.30-3.00pm, Monday 12 December 2022
GISA Boardroom, Level 4, 81-95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide

| Ag No. | Item / topic | Points of discussion | Resolution | Action | By |
|--------|---|---|--|--------|----|
| 1 | Welcome and Apologies | <p>2.30pm meeting open</p> <p>Members Mr Kevin McGuinness, Presiding Member Professor Ian Overton Professor Jodie Conduit Mr Vincent Tremaine AM Mr Adrian Skull Mr Paul Sandercock (via Teams) Dr Tracey Dodd (via Teams)</p> <p>Staff Mr Ian Harvey Ms Michaela Heinson Mr Josh Wheeler Ms Veronica James (via Teams) Mr Justin Lang</p> <p>Board Support Ms Sue Agars</p> <p>Apologies: nil.</p> <p>The Chair, Mr Kevin McGuinness opened the meeting at 2.36pm and provided an Acknowledgement of Country.</p> | | | |
| 2 | Disaster Waste Management – River Murray Flooding | <p>Hard copy documents tabled: Estimated Clean-up Costings, and Flood Mapping and Properties. E-copy provided to online members Tracey Dodd and Paul Sandercock.</p> <p>Conflict of interest disclosures:</p> | <p>Board members:</p> <p>i) Noted the OOS papers; Estimated Clean-up Costings, and Flood Mapping and Properties as tabled.</p> <p>ii) Noted the declarations of interest for Kevin McGuinness and Adrian</p> | | |

| Ag No. | Issue / topic | Points of discussion | Resolution | Action | By |
|--------|--|---|--|-----------------------|----|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kevin McGuinness (property holding on the River Murray) - Adrian Skull (member Adelaide Hills Waste Management Authority) <p>Prof Overton provided an update and developments around the current and expected impacts for GISA for the River Murray Flooding, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declared as major emergency on 21 November 2022 by the State Coordinator, however GISA not yet activated (by the State Coordinator) as function lead for DWM under the State Emergency Management Plan. • Updated modelling now based on 250GL/day and number of properties potentially affected. Clean-up is potentially 6 times larger than bushfires. • Peak expected end of December 2022, with clean up to commence end of January 2023. February to April largest clean up activity. • Funding/costs for clean-up estimated [REDACTED] with half anticipated to be funded by DRFA. • Impact to agency is significant. Michaela Heinson leading as Program Director, Justin Lang Program Manager. Other roles reviewed. Consultants will be contracted. Meeting Monday 19/12/22 with Tier 1 contractor (Jones Lang). Project Management and Assessors. • Risks reviewed including hazardous waste area/environment, wildlife, distressed member of the public, and welfare of staff. • Budget line in the Business Plan Priority 4: Maintaining South Australia's Leadership in Waste Diversion as Disaster Waste Management (\$20k) currently being utilised. Activation will release further funding. | <p>Skull.</p> <p>iii) Noted the potential significant impacts to GISA and staffing</p> <p>iv) Noted budget line in the Business Plan is currently being utilised for DWM (Priority 4: <i>Maintaining South Australia's Leadership in Waste Diversion as Disaster Waste Management</i>).</p> <p>v) Noted the Board will be requested to consider approval OOS for CE delegation to execute contracts and expenses outside of the Business Plan (once activation has occurred).</p> <p>vi) Noted that the Chief Executive GISA will update the Board on a fortnightly basis on developments for DWM for the River Murray Flood.</p> | <p>Board OOS to be arranged to consider Delegations to CE for DWM expenses and contract execution.</p> <p>CE GISA to provide the Board with fortnightly updates on DWM for the River Murray Flood.</p> | <p>OOS</p> <p>OOS</p> | |

Clause 1(1)(e) - Cabinet documents

| Ag No. | Issue / topic | Points of discussion | Resolution | Action | By |
|--------|---------------|---|---|--------|----|
| | | <p>The Board members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landfill capacity and sites. Main transfer stations at situated at Monash, Cambrai and Brinkley. Allocation of sites being reviewed and DEW assisting with potential use of Crown Lands. Potential for 80% shack inundation, with classification for Marinas and houseboats to be further explored ie: business or commercial, although expectation is for low amounts of damage Consultant engaged to estimate value of clean-up using average per residence and application of cost. RFQ to be issued when activated, and engagement with consultants under contract. PIRSA leading backwater/blackwater irrigation with hotline available for members of public to discuss water quality. Water quality measuring devices to be re-located by DEW. Anticipated funding: 50% from GIF [REDACTED] with proportionate Australian Govt. appropriation. Board approval for CE delegation to execute contracts and expenditure will be required. Updates on DWM for the River Murray flood to be provided by the Chief Executive, GISA on a 2 weekly basis. | <div data-bbox="792 810 873 961" style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Clause 1(1)(e) - Cabinet documents </div> | | |
| 3. | Meeting close | The OOS closed at 3.11pm. | | | |

Wheeler, Josh (GISA)


From: Heinson, Michaela (GISA)
Sent: Wednesday, 21 December 2022 9:40 AM
To: Overton, Ian (GISA); kmcguinness@adam.com.au; Paul Sandercock; 'Tracey Dodd'; Jodie Conduit; Vincent Tremaine; Adrian Skull
Cc: Agars, Sue (GISA); Wheeler, Josh (GISA); Scales, Matthew (GISA); Harvey, Ian (GISA)
Subject: Update on Disaster Waste Management Program - River Murray Flood (21/12/22)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Confidential – not for distribution

Dear Board members

At the out of session meeting on 12 December 2022, the Board indicated interest in receiving fortnightly updates on the disaster waste management activities of the Agency. The following brief dot-points are provided for information only - some elements are confidential.

- River flow: estimates still between 190GL per day to 220GL per day.
- Peak flow at Renmark expected 24 December.
- Recreational access to the River Murray now banned.
- 
Joint announcement of the clean up package is likely to occur in early January.
- An open tender Request for Quote has been initiated for on-ground operation support (across 3 Zones – Riverland; Mid Murray; Lower Murray) including:
 - Assessment of impacted premises; waste debris clean up; collection; transport; processing; disposal, monitoring and reporting; liaison.
 - Tier 1 project management and local contractors invited to apply.
 - Evaluation of tenders will commence on 3 January 2023
- Quotes are being sought to engage Work Health Safety consultant(s) to ensure WHS aspects are properly addressed.
- Additional personnel from EPA to support GISA being investigated.
- Data, mapping and communications aspects being developed.
- Estimates regarding the timing of initial access to assess properties once the river levels have subsided range from mid-late January to March depending upon location and accessibility (e.g. condition of road infrastructure; make safe (e.g. electrical hazards etc).

Clause 1(1)(e) -
Cabinet
documents

Currently, the Agency is not in a position to respond to detailed Board member queries (apologies).

I wish you all a safe and relaxing festive season.

Kind regards

Michaela

Michaela Heinson (She/Her) | A/Chief Executive
Green Industries SA
M: 0428 940 725
E: michaela.heinson@sa.gov.au | **W:** greenindustries.sa.gov.au
Level 4/ 81-95 Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000



Government of South Australia

Green Industries SA

Green Industries SA acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, offering our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.